

Slaughter "Optimistic" About High-Speed Rail Recovery Funding

DOT Announces Recovery Funding Guidelines

Washington, DC - Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chair of the House Committee on Rules and the Bi-partisan Upstate New York Caucus, today issued the following statement after the Department of Transportation announced guidelines for receiving a portion of the \$8 billion in high-speed rail competitive grant funding that was included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:

Slaughter said, **"the development of a high-speed rail line in Upstate New York will not only address our lack of transportation options but create good jobs and boost economic activity across the region. I can hardly think of a better use for economic recovery funding.**

The enactment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided us with a key opportunity to move forward with a high-speed rail line in Upstate New York. I am optimistic about our prospects for securing recovery funding and will continue to work with my fellow rail advocates to make the third-track initiative a reality."

Rep. Slaughter is a foremost advocate to bring about the "third-track initiative", the development of a high-speed track along existing rail lines between Buffalo and Albany with stops in Rochester, Syracuse, and Utica .

Over the past months, Rep. Slaughter has led meetings with key stakeholders: members of the Upstate New York Caucus, representatives from Governor Paterson's office, the New York State Department of Transportation, CSX who owns the right of way to existing rail lines, and Amtrak .

New York State, supported by Slaughter and other high-speed rail advocates is working to secure a portion of the recovery funding for the "third-track initiative".

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